



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release: PHs OF TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1943

The 1943 regulations governing the hunting of migratory game birds were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The new rules differ only slightly from those in force last year.

The fall 70-day hunting season begins September 25 in the Northern zone, October 15 in the Intermediate zone, and on November 2 in the Southern zone.

At the request of State authorities both Iowa and Pennsylvania have been placed in the Northern zone. Because of the change in regard to Pennsylvania, the important Pymatuning Reservoir, which lies partly in Pennsylvania and partly in Ohio, is now entirely in the Northern zone and regulations affecting it will be simplified.

Adopted by Secretary Ickes in accordance with a law of Congress making effective treaties relating to birds migrating between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the amended regulations were approved by President Roosevelt on July 16. They were recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service following biological investigations and consultations with State game administrators.

Hunting of migratory game birds this year, except geese in Alexander County, Illinois, and white-winged doves in Texas, will be from half an hour before sunrise to sunset. Last season the hours ran from sunrise to sunset except in Alexander County, Illinois where geese were hunted only from sunrise to noon and this provision is continued in the regulations this year. In addition white-winged doves in Texas may be hunted only from noon until sunset during the open season.

Sportsmen will be permitted to retain birds lawfully taken for a period of 45 days following the close of the open season in the State where killed--an extension of 15 days.

Sora have been included in the bag limit with coot. Twenty-five sora or coot, but not exceeding 25 in the aggregate, may be taken daily, possession being limited to a bag of not over 25 of either kind or in the aggregate of both species.

Changes were made in the dates for hunting woodcock in Connecticut, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The season for hunting rails and gallinules in Maryland was shortened 30 days, and closed in Iowa to conform with State laws. In Maine and Wisconsin

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the opening and closing dates for rails and gallinules were changed to coincide with the season for ducks.

Opening dates for hunting mourning doves were changed in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. A number of counties were added to the north zone of Texas; and the season changed in the remainder of the State and hunting reduced in that zone from 42 to 30 days. A season was provided for Colorado at the request of the State Game and Fish Commission.

The white-winged dove season in Texas was reduced from 10 days to 7 half-days. Not exceeding 20 white-winged doves may be had in possession, open seasons for this species being provided only in Texas and Arizona.

OPEN SEASONS

No open season is provided on snow geese in Beaverhead, Gallatin and Madison counties in Montana, in Idaho and States bordering the Atlantic Ocean; or on Ross's geese and swans.

The open seasons for wild ducks, geese, brant, and coot are as follows, both dates inclusive:

In Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, September 25 to December 3.

In California (except on the Colorado River and within ten miles of its western bank), Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York (except certain hereinafter designated portions of Essex, Clinton, and Washington Counties) including Long Island, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia, October 15 to December 23.

On the Colorado River in California and within ten miles of its western bank, November 2 to January 10.

In those portions of Essex and Clinton Counties, New York, east of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad tracks and that part of Washington County east of the aforesaid tracks to and including the town of South Bay and all of the waters of South Bay and one mile distant from such waters in any direction, September 25 to December 3.

In Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, November 2 to January 10.

In Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.

In Fur Districts 1 and 3 in Alaska, September 21 to November 29; and in the remainder of Alaska, September 1 to November 9: Provided, that scoters,

locally known as sea coots, may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine and New Hampshire from September 15 to September 30; and in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, including Long Island, and Rhode Island, from September 15 to October 15, and thereafter from land or water during the open seasons for other water fowl in these States.

Geese, in Alexander County, Illinois, October 15 to December 13.

Rails and gallinules (except coot).--The open season on rails and gallinules (except coot) is from September 1 to November 30, except as follows:

Alabama, November 20 to January 31.

Louisiana, September 15 to December 15.

Maine, and Wisconsin, September 25 to December 3.

Maryland, September 1 to October 31.

Massachusetts, and New York, including Long Island, October 15 to December 23.

Minnesota, September 16 to November 30.

Puerto Rico, December 15 to February 12.

California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, no open season.

Woodcock.--The open seasons on woodcock are as follows:

That part of New York lying north of the tracks of the main line of the New York Central Railroad extending from Buffalo to Albany and north of the tracks of the main line of the Boston & Albany Railroad extending from Albany to the Massachusetts State line, and in Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, October 1 to October 15.

That part of New York lying south of the line above described and in Indiana and West Virginia, October 15 to October 29.

That part of New York known as Long Island, and in New Jersey, and Rhode Island, November 1 to November 15.

Arkansas and Oklahoma, December 1 to December 15.

Connecticut, October 16 to October 30.

Delaware and Maryland, November 15 to November 29.

Louisiana and Mississippi, December 15 to December 29.

Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Vermont, October 10 to October 24.

Massachusetts, October 20 to November 3.

Michigan, in Upper Peninsula, October 1 to October 15; in remainder of State, October 15 to October 29.

Minnesota, October 3 to October 17.

Missouri, November 10 to November 24.

Virginia, November 20 to December 4.

Mourning or turtle dove.—The open seasons on mourning or turtle dove are as follows;

Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina, November 20 to December 19.

Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, September 1 to October 12.

Arkansas, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, and Virginia, September 16 to October 15.

Florida, December 1 to December 30.

Idaho, September 1 to September 10.

Illinois, and Missouri, September 1 to September 30.

Minnesota, September 16 to September 30.

North Carolina, November 25 to December 24.

Oregon, September 1 to September 15.

Texas, in Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Bell, Falls, McLennan, Hill, Navarro, Kaufman, Hunt, Hopkins, Delta, and Lamar Counties, and all counties north and west thereof, September 1 to October 12; in remainder of State, November 20 to December 19.

White-winged dove.—May be hunted in

Arizona from September 1 to September 15 and in Texas from September 13 to September 19.

Band-tailed pigeon.-- The open seasons on band-tailed pigeons are as follows:

Arizona, New Mexico, and Washington, September 16 to October 15.

California, December 1 to December 30.

Oregon, September 1 to September 30.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

On the opening day of the season no person may possess any migratory game birds in excess of the daily limits.

Daily bag limits on ducks are 10 in the aggregate of all kinds including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck, or more than 3 singly or in the aggregate of redheads and buffleheads. Any person at any one time may possess not more than 20 ducks in the aggregate of all kinds but not more than 1 wood duck nor over 6 of either or both of redheads or buffleheads.

The daily limit on geese and brant is 2, but in addition 4 blue geese may be taken in a day. If blue geese only are taken the daily bag limit is 6. The possession limit on geese other than blue geese is 4 but in addition 2 blue geese are allowed. If only blue geese are taken the possession limit is 6 of them.

The bag limit for sora and coot is 25 singly or in the aggregate a day, not over 25 in the aggregate in possession at one time.

Fifteen rails and gallinules in the aggregate of all kinds (except sora and coot) may be taken daily, possession being limited to that number in the aggregate.

Woodcock shooters may take 4 of these birds daily and may possess not exceeding 8 of them.

Not over 10 of both mourning or turtle and white-winged doves in the aggregate may be taken in one day. Possession of mourning doves is limited at any one time to not over 10 and white-wings to 20.

Ten band-tailed pigeons may be taken daily and possession is limited to that number.